

# Marine Licence with introductory note

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)

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Licence Holder: CEFAS

CEFAS Pakefield Road,  
Lowestoft,  
Suffolk,  
NR33 0HT

CEND112026 Clean Seas Environmental  
Monitoring Programme - sediment and  
surface sampling for microplastics in the  
Welsh inshore and offshore region

Licence Number:

**RML2610**

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# **CEND112026 Clean Seas Environmental Monitoring Programme - sediment and surface sampling for microplastics in the Welsh inshore and offshore region**

**Marine Licence number: RML2610**

## **Introductory note**

### **This introductory note does not form a part of the marine licence**

The main features of the marine licence are as follows:

Collection of sediment samples using a Day grab at each site (27 sites total), with up to five replicates per site, and surface sampling of the ocean for microplastics (0.1m<sup>3</sup>) using a Day grab for the purpose of OSPAR reporting.

The status log of the marine licence sets out the marine licence history, including any subsequent marine licence variation(s):

<b>Status log of this marine licence</b>		
<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Application	21 April 2026	Application received and considered to be duly made
Date licence determined	29 May 2026	Determination date

Related Marine licences or applications under determination:

Not applicable.

End of introductory note.

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**BAND 1 MARINE LICENCE NUMBER RML2610**

**1 LICENCE DETAILS**

**1.1 Band 1 Licence**

This is a licence granted by the Licensing Authority in respect of an application numbered **RML2610** and duly made on **21 April 2026** and authorises the Licence Holder to carry out activities for which a licence is required under Part 4 of the 2009 Act and falling within Band 1 of Schedule 1 of the Marine Licensing (Fees) (Wales) Regulations 2017/280. This licence should be interpreted in accordance with **Section 4**.

**1.2 Licence Holder**

The Licence Holder is the organisation set out below:

**Organisation name:** CEFAS  
**Address:** CEFAS Pakefield Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 0HT

**1.3 Licence Validity**

<b>Licence Start Date</b>	<b>29 May 2026</b>
<b>Licence End Date</b>	<b>28 May 2027</b>
<b>Licence Issue Date</b>	<b>29 May 2026</b>

**1.4 Conditions**

This licence is subject to the conditions set out in **Section 3**.

**Signed:**



**Joe Thomas - Lead Specialist Officer  
(on behalf of the Marine Licensing Team Leader)**

For and on behalf of the Licensing Authority

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## 2 LICENSED ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 Project

This licence is granted in respect of:

**CEND112026 Clean Seas Environmental Monitoring Programme - sediment and surface sampling for microplastics in the Welsh inshore and offshore region.**

**The Licensed Activities permitted by this licence, as set out in 2.2 below, comprise activities of the following general type:**

- the removal of a substance or object from the sea bed.

### 2.2 Licensed Activities

The following activities can be conducted within the Licence Period, within the Licensed Area and in accordance with the Approved Application, and the Approved Supporting Documents:

#### Removal Activities

- The removal of litter using a vehicle or vessel, including litter collected by hand but subsequently stored on the beach for removal by a vehicle or vessel.
- Sediment (grab) samples where the total sample volume across all samples is no more than 4 cubic metres. The density of grab samples should not exceed 50 samples within any one hectare. Up to 27 sites are included, with up to 5 replicates at each site.

### 2.3 Licensed Area

2.3.1 The Licence Holder is authorised to conduct the activities described in paragraph 2.2 within the following coordinates and as indicated in the plan attached at Appendix 1:

Latitude	Longitude
51.2500000	-6.0000000
52.3583000	-4.1750000
53.5000000	-3.6917000
51.4426990	-6.3560900
51.4818990	-6.0561000
51.2999990	-6.1796400
51.3147010	-6.4177600
52.0769960	-5.0429610
52.0487600	-4.8932900
52.9057010	-4.2098700
52.7151680	-4.4652780

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52.8925020	-4.2725200
52.8862000	-4.2288000
53.6187780	-3.7036690
53.6032680	-3.7108050
53.6288190	-4.0088640
53.5948940	-3.9923760
53.6182750	-3.9756590
53.6307180	-4.0057040
51.5186130	-3.9884410
51.5881050	-3.8475990
51.5373750	-3.8461150
51.5418040	-3.8630290
51.5863650	-3.9759220
51.5996150	-3.9504210
51.5457260	-3.9388290
51.5525520	-3.8898790

**In the event of any discrepancy between the coordinates set out above and the plan attached at Appendix 1, the coordinates shall take precedence.**

**2.4 Approved Supporting Documents**

<b>Title/Description of Document</b>	<b>Date Submitted</b>
RML2610 - Application Form	09 April 2026
RML2610 - Method Statement 2026	09 April 2026
RML2610 - PA2606 Q26021 - DEFRA Clean Seas and Environmental Monitoring Programme	09 April 2026
RML2610 - RCAHMW Cefas Survey CEND112026 sediment station	09 April 2026
RML2610 - RE_ Cefas Survey CEND112026 navigational safety - MCA Response	09 April 2026
RML2610 - Trinity House FW_ Cefas Survey CEND112026 navigational safety	09 April 2026
RML2610 - CSEMP Welsh Sediment Stations Priority 1 to 8 UPDATED	21 April 2026

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### **3     CONDITIONS**

#### **Notification and Inspection**

##### **3.1     Notification of Commencement**

**3.1.1** The Licence Holder must notify the Licensing Authority no less than **5 days** before the commencement of the Licensed Activities, or an individual phase of the Licensed Activities, is expected to commence.

**3.1.2** The Licence Holder must notify Welsh Government Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement) no less than **5 days** before the commencement of the Licensed Activities, or an individual phase of the Licensed Activities, is expected to commence.

**3.1.3** The Licence Holder must ensure that local mariners and fishermen's organisations are made fully aware of the Licensed Activities through local notices to mariners **5 days** prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activities.

##### **3.2     Notification of Agents/Contractors/Sub-Contractors**

The Licence Holder must ensure that details of any agent(s), contractor(s) or sub-contractor(s) utilised to undertake the Licensed Activities are submitted to the Licensing Authority and Welsh Government Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement) at least **24 hours** prior to the commencement of Licensed Activities.

##### **3.3     Notification of HM Coastguard**

The Licence Holder must ensure that HM Coastguard is made aware of the Licensed Activities at least **24 hours** prior to commencement by contacting The National Maritime Operations Centre at [zone28@hmcg.gov.uk](mailto:zone28@hmcg.gov.uk), [zone29@hmcg.gov.uk](mailto:zone29@hmcg.gov.uk), [zone30@hmcg.gov.uk](mailto:zone30@hmcg.gov.uk), [zone31@hmcg.gov.uk](mailto:zone31@hmcg.gov.uk) and [zone32@hmcg.gov.uk](mailto:zone32@hmcg.gov.uk).

##### **3.4     Notification of Vessels and/or Vehicles**

The Licence Holder must ensure that the details of the vessels and/or vehicles utilised to undertake the Licensed activities are submitted to the Licensing Authority and Welsh Government Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement) at least **24 hours** prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activities.

##### **3.5     Inspection of Licensed Activities**

The Licence Holder must allow Marine Enforcement Officers or any other person authorised by the Licensing Authority to inspect the Licensed activities at any reasonable time.

##### **3.6     Notification of Completion**

**3.6.1** The Licence Holder must notify the Licensing Authority within **10 days** of completion of the Licensed Activities.

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**3.6.2** The Licence Holder must notify the Welsh Government Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement) within **10 days** of completion of the Licensed Activities.

### **3.7 Notification of UK Hydrographic Office**

Where the Licensed Activities involve deposit or construction activities, the Licence Holder must notify the UK Hydrographic Office of the Licensed Area and the Licensed Activities within **5 days** of the completion of the Licensed Activities.

### **3.8 Accident or Emergency**

**3.8.1** If, by reason of force majeure any substances or articles are deposited otherwise than as permitted as part of the Licensed Activities or in the Licensed Area full details of the circumstances shall be notified to the Licensing Authority within **48 hours** of the incident occurring.

**3.8.2** If it is necessary for the Licence Holder to recover or remove any equipment, plant or machinery used to undertake the Licensed Activities that have been dropped as a result of an accident or emergency, the Licence Holder is permitted to do so provided that the methodology for such recovery or removal has been approved by the Licensing Authority.

### **3.9 Distribution of Copies of this Licence**

The Licence Holder is required to ensure that a copy of this Licence and any special conditions thereto is given to:

- All agent(s), contractor(s) and sub-contractor(s) whose names have been provided to the Licensing Authority pursuant to condition 3.2; and
- The Masters of any vessels and transport managers responsible for the vehicles employed in the pursuance of this Licence whose details have been submitted to the Licensing Authority pursuant to condition 3.4.

### **3.10 Inspection of Documents**

Copies of this Licence shall be made available at the following locations:

- at the address of the Licence Holder specified in section 1.2;
- at any site office, located at or adjacent to the Licensed Area, used by the Licence Holder or its agent(s), contractor(s) or sub-contractor(s) responsible for the loading transportation or deposit of any substances or articles permitted as part of the Licensed Activities;
- on board each vessel or vehicle carrying out Licensed Activities.

The documents referred to in this Condition shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection by officers appropriately authorised by the Licensing Authority and authorised Marine Enforcement Officers at the locations stated in that paragraph.

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## **Vessels, Plant and Equipment**

### **3.11 Notified Contractors, Vessels and/or Vehicles only to Carry out Licensed Activities**

Only those agent(s), contractor(s), sub-contractor(s), vessels and/or vehicles whose details have been notified to the Licensing Authority may operate under the terms of this Licence. Any changes must be notified to and be approved by the Licensing Authority in writing prior to any such agent(s), contractor(s), sub-contractor(s) vessels or vehicles carrying out any Licensed Activities pursuant to or otherwise operating under this Licence.

### **3.12 Refuelling of Plant and Equipment**

The Licence Holder must ensure that plant, vehicles and machinery are not refuelled on the foreshore or in the sea.

### **3.13 Equipment, Structures and Access**

The Licence Holder must ensure that all equipment, temporary structures, access tracks, waste and/or debris associated with the Licensed Activities are removed on completion of the Licensed activities.

## **Safety**

### **3.14 Removal of Deposited Material**

If the Licensing Authority considers it necessary or advisable for the safety of navigation, the Licence Holder must remove any deposit specified by the Licensing Authority or Marine Enforcement Officers within one month of notice being given by the Licensing Authority, and not shall not replace such material until the Licensing Authority has given its written approval.

## **Pollution control**

### **3.15 Pollution Prevention**

The Licence Holder must ensure that pollution prevention best practice is adhered to at all times. Any incidents must be reported to the Licensing Authority as soon as possible using the hotline number **0300 065 3000**.

### **3.16 Spillage of Pollutants**

The Licence Holder must employ bunding, storage facilities and spill kits to contain and prevent the release of fuel, oils and chemicals associated with the plant, refuelling and construction equipment into the marine environment. Secondary containment must be used with a capacity of **no less than 110%** of the container's storage capacity.

### **3.17 Coatings**

The Licence Holder must ensure that any coatings/treatments used in carrying out the Licensed Activities are suitable for use in the marine environment and are used in accordance with best environmental practice.

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### **3.18 Prevention of Disposal of Man-made Debris**

The Licence Holder must ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent the disposal of man-made debris to the marine environment. Such material must be removed immediately and be disposed of appropriately. If it is not possible to prevent manmade debris from entering the marine environment during the Licensed Activities, the Licensed Activities must cease immediately.

### **3.19 Cleanliness of Equipment**

The Licence Holder must ensure that equipment, machinery and PPE are washed with freshwater and/or thoroughly airdried before deployment and before moving between locations.

### **Activity-specific conditions**

### **3.20 Boreholes or Grab Samples - Additional Notification Upon Completion**

The Licence Holder must inform the Licensing Authority, of the location of all completed samples within **10 days** of completion of the work.

### **3.21 Grab Samples - Sensitive Species**

The Licence Holder must ensure that in the event of removal of any sensitive species designated by NRW under Schedule 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, no further removals occur at that location, or within **20 metres** of that location.

### **3.22 Removal Activity – Artefacts**

The Licence Holder must ensure that any artefacts found during the Licensed Activities are reported through the Marine Portable Antiquities Scheme.

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#### **4 INTERPRETATION**

In this Licence terms are as defined in section 115 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act unless otherwise stated.

- (a) “**2009 Act**” means the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009;
- (b) “**Approved Application**” means the Band 1 Marine Licence Application Form together with the Approved Supporting Documents;
- (c) “**Approved Supporting Documents**” means the documents supporting, or supplementary to, the Approved Application, submitted prior to the Licence Issue Date, listed in the Table at paragraph 2.4 above;
- (d) “**Commencement**” means the first undertaking of any Licensed Activities;
- (e) “**Force majeure**” may be deemed to apply when, due to stress of weather or any other cause, the master of a vessel determines that it is necessary to deposit the substances or articles because the safety of human life and/or of the vessel is threatened;
- (f) “**Licensed Activities**” means the activities authorised by this licence as specified in 2.2;
- (g) “**Licensed Area**” means the area within which Licensed Activities are authorised by this Licence as specified in section 2.3;
- (h) “**Licence Holder**” means the person(s) or organisation(s) named in section 1.2 to whom this licence is granted;
- (i) “**Licence Period**” means the period beginning with the Licence Start Date and ending on the Licence End Date;
- (j) “**Licensing Authority**” means Natural Resources Wales acting on behalf of the Welsh Ministers;
- (k) “**Marine Enforcement Officers**” means the relevant officers appointed by Welsh Ministers under section 235 of the 2009 Act, contact details for whom are provided in paragraph 5;
- (l) “**Marine Licence Application Form**” means the application form forming part of the application referred to in paragraph 1.1;
- (m) “**MCZ**” means Marine Conservation Zone;
- (n) “**Ramsar site**” means a wetland site designated of international importance under the Ramsar Convention;
- (o) “**SAC**” means Special Area of Conservation;
- (p) “**Sensitive Area**” means any designated or proposed protected area (SPA, SAC, MCZ, SSSI or Ramsar site), or any other habitat identified by Natural Resources Wales as sensitive as at the date of this Licence;

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(q) “**Sensitive Area Method Statement**” means the Method Statement(s) forming part of the Approved Application or Approved Supporting Documents;

(r) “**SPA**” means Special Protection Area;

(s) “**SSSI**” means Site of Special Scientific Interest;

(t) “**Works**” means any construction activities comprised in the Licensed Activities and, where the context permits, includes any plant, equipment or materials used to carry out those activities or operations but excludes monitoring, minor routine maintenance or other ongoing operational activities following completion of any construction activities;

(u) all times shall be taken to be the time in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) on any given day;

(v) all co-ordinates shall be taken to be latitude and longitude decimal degree (WGS 84);

(w) in the event of any discrepancy between the coordinates listed in paragraph 2.4 and the plan attached at Appendix 1, the coordinates shall take precedence.

## **5 CONTACTS**

**Except where otherwise indicated, the primary point of contact with the Licensing Authority and the address for returns, correspondence is:**

Natural Resources Wales Marine Licensing Team,  
Welsh Government Offices,  
Cathays Park,  
King Edward VII Avenue,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ  
Tel: 0300 065 3000  
Email: [marinelicensing@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:marinelicensing@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

**Welsh Government Marine Enforcement Officers may be contacted at:**

Welsh Government Fisheries Division (Control & Enforcement)  
Welsh Government  
Suite 3  
Cedar Court  
Haven’s Head Business Park  
Milford Haven Pembrokeshire  
SA73 3LS  
  
Tel: 03000 253500  
Email: [MarineLicencingEnforcement@gov.wales](mailto:MarineLicencingEnforcement@gov.wales)

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Appendix 1

